that there are too many points. Many of these points have been raised by one member or another already.

The last point that you have raised about the second grade Pleaders being given *Sanads* to practise in the High Court is very fantastic as you yourself will admit. But perhaps there is nothing wrong in principle, in the theory you started with. A person who has passed the S. S. L. C. might sit for a Law Examination with those who are graduates and take his chance with them. But as long as that is not the principle here, the suggestion that you made must be declared to be fantastic.

The other points will be considerd by Government and the question of reform of the Assembly will be dealt with after the other members also speak.

188. Representative Institutions and Responsible Government in Travancore.

MR. M. KESAVA MENON GOVINDA MENON (*Ambalapuzha taluk, Group II*) said that, from the very dawn of history, Travancore occupied a conspicuous position among the South Indian States. With her enlightenment, her up-to-date machinery of Government, her increasing population and an equally increasing income, the State might appear to be an ideal one to an outsider. The Dewan, in his Opening Address to the Assembly, had declared that the State had made remarkable progress in a variety of directions. But with the present poverty, unemployment, deterioration of industry, distress and famine, it was doubtful how far the Dewan's opinion could be endorsed. The unsympathetic and haphazard administrative policy of an unbroken galaxy of foreign Dewans, together with the irresponsible behaviour of the heads of departments towards the public and their utter disregard of public opinion, had impoverished the State and made the people thoroughly discontented. With Travancore, like any other Native State, responsible Government had become a necessity. The promulgation of the Press Regulation, the Police excesses at the so-called students' strike and in connection with the temperance movement at Shertallai showed clearly the attitude of the Government towards popular opinion and public welfare. In spite of repeated requests from the public as well as from the representatives of the people in the Assembly and in the Legislative Council, the Government were not prepared to take the necessary steps to bring to book the actual culprits who tarnished the name of the Government in the Shertallai muddle. The Press Regulation only proclaimed to the world in unmistakable terms the desperate attempt of an inefficient Government to check the growth of national consciousness in the people and to suppress the legitimate voice of disapprobation against the high-handedness of the Government. It was for the present Dewan, a son of the soil, to remove this objectionable Regulation from the pages of the Statute Book.

The member next spoke about the character and scope of the representative institutions in the State. The population of the State according to the latest census was roughly 51 lakhs. Excluding the minor population of 23 lakhs, only one and a half lakhs of people, out of the remaining 28 lakhs of adult population, had the right to vote for the Legislative Council. Hence only 5 per cent. of the total population had the right of franchise, and this would convince any one of the unrepresentative character of the present Council. To make the institution thoroughly representative, the franchise should be extended to every adult member of the society. The Council as at present constituted had only very limited powers of discussion and interpellation. Nothing should be reserved as beyond the powers of the Council. To facilitate an open and free discussion, the members should be given absolute privilege. The Council should have an elected non-official President and the present practice of the Dewan conducting the proceedings of the Council should be discontinued.

The Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the other representative institution in the State, was often styled as a congregation of petitioners. It was a huge fraud on the public. It had all the privileges and rights, but had no sanction for their enforcement. Besides being a necessary paraphernalia of an enlightened Government, the institution served no useful purpose either to the public or to the Government. It was better to end the institution than to continue it in its present form. If the Government were really anxious to continue the institution, it should be given statutory recognition. The members of the Assembly had been repeatedly and year by year making representations for the reform of the Assembly. But the Government had done nothing in the matter. That showed the attitude of the Government towards the institution and the utter disregard with which the wishes of the accredited representatives of the people were treated. The benign Rulers of the State were not responsible for this state of affairs. The destiny of the State entirely rested with the Head of the Administration.

Next the member referred to the proposed All-India Federation Scheme and said that to satisfy the aspirations of the States' people and to ensure them a better responsible Government, the people should be empowered to send their own representatives to the Federal Assembly. In that connection, another important matter deserved notice. The union of the Native States with the Federal Assembly presupposed the establishment of responsible Government, in as much as a responsible federal constitution could not have an irresponsible Native State as a partner. Further the treaties that now existed with the Imperial Government should be abrogated, for duality of control was incompatable with uniformity. A State which had been federated to the Central Government could not have two masters at one time. Declaration of the fundamental rights of the States' people should be embodied in the terms of the Federal Constitution and should be enforced by the Federal Courts. A Federation with the representatives of the Princes alone would not in any way help the States' people.

Finally, the member spoke about the question of the establishment of an Executive Council. As the administration of the State by one man had proved to be defective, the members of the Assembly and the public through the Press, had been repeatedly agitating for the establishment of an Executive Council in the State. To facilitate the smooth working of the existing system of Government, to ensure better confidence in them and for the alleviation of the sufferings of the people, the establishment of an Executive Council in the State had become a sheer necessity. The member requested that the country should be made fit for an honourable union with the Federated Indian Central Government by being given a well constituted Executive Council and a more representative and better equipped Legislature.

189. Political, legal and social disabilities of Ezhava Women.

SREEMATHI P. MEENAKSHI (*Nominated*) who spoke in Malayalam, said that women had been made eligible for membership in the Legislative Council and in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. But such representative institutions as the Municipal Councils, and Village Panchayat Courts were still closed to them. Such institutions should be thrown open to them. The Dewan had hoped in his Opening Address that women would be returned to the next Assembly by election. But even Ezhava men failed to come in by election and hence the chances of Ezhava women for being returned by election were fewer. Ezhava women should be given adequate representation in the Assembly by nomination.

Women were now freely entertained in all the departments. Though qualified Ezhava women had applied for appointments in all the departments, they had not been entertained yet in any of the departments, except in the Education and Medical Departments. All the Heads of Departments should be specially instructed to give preference to the claims of Ezhava women in the matter of appointments. Many Ezhava women-graduates had applied for appointment in the Education Department. When there were several equally qualified applicants for a post, the claims of the candidates belonging to the backward communities should be given preference. Ezhava women should also be exempted from the rule regarding age-bar for entertainment in public service.

Social and legal matters are closely related. There was need to represent about the High Court decisions and Government orders preceding and following the enactment of the Ezhava Regulation. But as limitations of time and the rules of the Assembly precluded an immediate examination of the question, she proposed to make a special representation to Government at an early date.

Lastly, the member expressed feelings of loyalty and gratitude to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent and concluded after thanking the Dewan.